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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 February 2023 6:01 AM  
**To:** Legal Affairs and Safety Committee  
**Subject:** Submission on self-ID

Hi,  
I am the parent of a 19 year old trans identified son in Melbourne. He was transitioned at his school without our knowledge or approval. He has now been on hormones for 1 year. This was done without counseling and despite 'informed consent' having been obtained, he still doesn't understand, or believe, the risks this entails. I would like to draw your attention to a recent statement from Dr. Riittakerttu Kaltiala, Finland's leading expert on pediatric gender medicine and chief psychiatrist at its largest gender clinic (Tampere University) on self-id and the potential impact on children. These are some important quotes,

“ While it is "important to accept the child as they are," Kaltiala said, it's also necessary to recognize that "four out of five" children with cross-gender ID grow out of it during puberty and come to terms with their body/sex.”

“ Accepting a child as they are, Kaltiala explained, means neither pressuring them to conform to sex-typical behaviors nor "negating the body" by confirming the gender self-ID. "In either case, the child gets a message that there is something wrong with him or her."

“ Changing the legal sex marker in youth, Kaltiala told the newspaper, is not a formality which states a fact, but a strong psychological and social intervention that guides the development of a young person. "It's a message saying that this is the right path for you."

"The developmental mission of youth is not helped by the fact that young people's self-expression is supported and directed from the outside... The environment should also not commit to identity experiments in a way that might make a later change of direction anxiety-inducing."

“ Many young people grab the idea available in the media & social media that their problems are caused by gender identity & will be solved if others start to see them as members of the other sex. That does not work, says Kaltiala. "A balance of the mind does not come from making others do and see what you want."

In its statement to the Social and Health Committee, the Finnish Pediatric Society said gender self-ID should not be extended to minors.



Thanks and regards,

Melanie Whyte

